

The listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

IN THE CLAIMS:

a 1. (Currently amended) A make-and-break contact material comprising an of Ag-Ni-based alloy used for a switching part performing electrical switching through mechanical switching operation,

wherein said make-and-break contact material of Ag-Ni-based alloy comprising with Ni metal particles dispersed therein is obtained through mixing and stirring

3.1 to 20.0 wt% of Ni powder,

a certain amount of Li_2CO_3 powder in an amount corresponding to 0.01 to 0.50 wt % of metal Li metal as an additive, and

a balance being of Ag powder to make a mixture with powders uniformly dispersed therein, and through compacting and sintering the mixture.

2. (Currently amended) A relay which uses comprising the make-and-break contact material of Ag-Ni-based alloy with Ni metal particles dispersed therein according to claim 1.

3. (New) A switching part comprising the make-and-break contact material of claim 1, wherein said switching part performs electrical switching through a mechanical

switching operation.

4. (New) A make-and-break contact material according to claim 1, wherein said contact material comprises 8.0 -15.0 wt% of Ni.

5. (New) A make-and-break contact material according to claim 1, wherein said contact material comprises Li_2CO_3 in an amount corresponding to 0.05 to 0.2 wt % of Li metal.

6. (New) A make-and-break contact material according to claim 1, wherein said Ni powder is uniformly dispersed in said Ag-Ni-based alloy.

7. (New) A make-and-break contact material according to claim 1, wherein said Ag powder is present in an amount that constitutes the balance of said alloy.

8. (New) A make-and-break contact material according to claim 1, wherein said contact material is adapted to withstand at least 900,000 times or more of switching when using a resistive load of 10A at AC 250V.

9. (New) A make-and-break contact material according to claim 8, wherein said contact material is part of a miniaturized make and break contact.



10. (New) A method for making a make-and-break contact material comprising:

(A) providing

(a) 3.1 to 20.0wt% of Ni powder,

(b) Li_2CO_3 powder in an amount corresponding to 0.1 to 0.50 wt % of Li metal,

(c) Ag powder;

(B) mixing powders (a), (b) and (c) of (A) uniformly to produce a mixture; and

(C) compacting and sintering the mixture obtained in (B).

11. (New) A method according to claim 10, wherein said Ag power is provided in an amount that constitutes the balance of said alloy.

12. (New) A method according to claim 10, wherein 8.0 to 15.0 wt% of Ni powder is provided.

13. (New) A method according to claim 10, wherein Li_2CO_3 powder in an amount corresponding to 0.05 to 0.2 wt % of Li metal is provided.

14. (New) A method according to claim 10, wherein said make-and-break contact material is adapted to be used in a relay.



15. (New) In an make-and-break electrical contact material comprising an Ag-Ni alloy,
the improvement comprising
conferring an arc extinguishing action to said alloy by incorporating Li_2CO_3 in said
alloy in an amount of 0.01 to 0.50 wt %, calculated as Li metal.

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